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in cases of wet and unfavourable weather, frequently throws them so much behind, that their crops are too late in putting into the ground, and the harvest of course protracted until the cold frosty nights, of the latter part of the Autumn, brings on a premature ripeness, and the grain is consequently defective both in quantity and quality.

The wheat crops continue to look well in most part of the country; and here it may not be amiss to call the attention of the cultivators of that valuable grain, to a practice, which for many years past, has prevailed amongst some of the most extensive farmers in England, and been adopted by several in this country, namely...harrowing, and rolling the wheat crops in Spring.

There are few farmers who have not observed that the frequent heavy rains in Winter so consolidate the soil, that when it dries in Spring, the surface is hard and crusted over, and rendered extremely unfavourable to the progress of the tender roots of the wheat, especially in clay soils. By breaking up this crust with the harrow, and afterwards passing the roller over it, the soil is made fine, and better prepared to afford the necessary nourishment to the young plants.

Those who have never seen this mode practised, may naturally conjecture that many of the roots will be destroyed by the action of the harrow, and it is not improbable that some of them may be lost; but they will find on making the experiment that the advantages resulting from it, will greatly overbalance any loss of that kind.

A single stroke of the harrow on every part of the ground, will be sufficient, and if any of the roots are loosened by it, the roller will remedy the injury.

Wheat has advanced a little in price since last report. Barley has fallen about two shillings per hundred weight, and oats have been stationary. Should liberty be granted to the distilleries to work, the latter will no doubt experience a rise.

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### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

It has become a practice with the writers who are predetermined to advocate the cause of things as they are, to speak in high terms of our commercial state. Unable to find topics for praise in our expeditions, or in our political relations, they lavish encomiums on our flourishing trade, as a set off against the dark shades of our situation. Let us meet them on their own ground, and inquire how far these mighty boasts are realized. The trade we are allowed with almost the entire continent of Europe is carried on by stealth, or the precarious connivance of the Autocrat of France. Trade is turned into a system of smuggling, and our manufactures are sometimes clandestinely carried into the continent, through our commercial depots at Heligoland, and a few other points, to which, by our naval superiority we have yet access. Russia still permits, by an artful policy for her own benefit, her articles to be exported; but as few importations are made from us, and the wisdom of our Orders in Council prevents the Americans from sending supplies to the continent, from which source they formerly had a fund to pay for our manufactures taken by them, the balance of trade is considerably against us, and a most disadvantageous rate of exchange is the consequence. Thus we may perceive the interruption of our trade with America produces the double inconvenience of excluding our manufactures from the North American Continent, and of withdrawing a fund whence our importations from the Continent of Europe were formerly conveniently paid. Indeed, with the United States of North America, matters are rapidly getting worse. A bullying Negotiator is sent out to reproach the Americans with not using a tone sufficiently high against the encroachments of France on their trade, and as a specimen of the kind of language he recommends, he becomes the great exemplar of a high tone, and uses such language in his letters, as a free state cannot with honour bear. The negotiation is thus broken off, and the difficulties of our situation, both commercial and political are increased by the probability of the American States being forced into the great muster-roll of our enemies. It is fashionable doctrine to despise the efforts of the Americans, but let us not be too confident; they formerly asserted the independence of their constitution, and there is a strong probability they are in the present crisis capable to vindicate the independence of their trade, and the rights of neutrals. Great Britain may once more regret her haughty rejection of conciliatory measures.

South America presents great obstacles to our trade with them. Even our friends, the old Court of Portugal, are shy of allowing us to share in the trade of the Brazils, and the Spanish settlements exercise their hereditary and inveterate prejudices against freely admit-

ting us into their harbours, and their prejudices have received additional confirmation, and almost justification from the marauding expeditions unjustly and impolitically undertaken against them at a recent period.

Denmark also remembers the unjust attack on Copenhagen, and, if yielding to the necessities of Norway, she allows a short respite of trade for three months to that quarter, she quickly withdraws her licence, and leaves us to suffer again from the effects of our intemperate conduct, and of her just resentment.

At home our prospect is sufficiently dreary. The want of timber paralyzes our efforts for improvement. The linen trade, at least regarding the finer branches, is in a state of unexampled depression. An unjustifiable speculation, and want of flax-seed, have essentially injured it, and our cotton trade is far from being in a flourishing and settled state, but is subject to all the fluctuations which usually mark a trade not permanently established. The large capitalists, the successful speculators, forming the commercial aristocracy, have gained, and among them, and their less successful imitators luxury has increased, but the condition of the middling classes is not bettered. In this province the manufacturers and smaller farmers had indeed advanced; yet their prosperity during the last year has by no means kept pace with their previous state of improvement. The high price of flax has materially decreased their profits, and among the poorer classes, at least, produced much distress. The manufacturers of linens have had during the last year, much less profit than usual, notwithstanding the high prices of linen. But in the estimate of the wealth of a country, such circumstances are overlooked by the man who views only the pinnacle and not the base of the pyramid.

In England, the increased poor-rates, and the number of claimants for the jubilee bounty in some places equalling the half of the population, mark the pressure of the times.

Are these facts proofs of our permanent commercial prosperity? or rather do they not prove that "our boasted good is but plethoric ill?" But we are not so unjust as to deny but in some respects our condition is bettered. Yet this improvement may rather be considered to have taken place, not in consequence of the wisdom of our rulers, but may tend to demonstrate that unwise management cannot altogether repress the energies of a people. A healthy constitution may survive, and even to a certain degree thrive, notwithstanding the injudicious efforts of empiricism; but as to any cause of rejoicing, or felicitating ourselves on our present situation, the judicious and reflecting who examine beneath the surface, will seriously ask, where are the stable grounds of prosperity?

It may be satisfactory to state, for the information of our readers, on a subject of internal policy, that there appears an error in a statement which lately appeared in the public papers, that the bakers in Ireland are compellable to take an oath of office, as to the ingredients which they put into their bread. An act for this purpose passed in 1787, was renewed in 1788, re-enacted in 1795, revived in 1803, and finally expired in 1807. Since this period there appears no farther enactment. The principle of compelling oaths of office is bad. Conscience ought not to be ensnared by setting positive engagements and interest in opposition. It is sufficient to punish when an improper action is committed.

Large importations of flax-seed, flax, and hemp have been made into London, during the last year, much more considerable than in the three preceding years; besides the importations into Leith, Hull, and the other ports in Great Britain convenient for the East country trade. We subjoin a table of the imports of these articles into London for the last four years. By this account we may perceive the great increase during the last year; and it is further to be noted that by far the greater part of the importation in 1809 took place within the last six months. A large fleet has also since arrived from the Baltic.

	1806	1807	1808	1809
Flax-seed,	56,870, hhds.	68,400 hhds.	19,000 hhds.	216,460 hhds.
Flax,	2,000 tons.	2,900 tons.	5,000 tons.	27,092 tons.
Hemp,	12,300 do.	17,300 do.	11,600 do.	48,996 do.

This statement has a tendency to lessen the fears of a deficiency of flax-seed for next Spring's sowing, and of a scarcity of flax and hemp for the purposes of our manufactures. We may reasonably expect a portion of these articles will reach this country, to reduce the prices, and keep the speculators in check.

In our home markets, flax is considerably advanced, owing to the deficiency of last year's crop, which failed in many places, particularly in the counties of Tyrone, Cavan and Monaghan. Foreign flax, in small parcels, is offered to sale in the flax market at New-cro, and there is reason to expect its use may become general to supply the deficiency of our own crop.

In consequence of intimation in the papers, that it is in prospect with the Irish Chancellor of the Exchequer to try again in the present session to remove the restriction off distillation from grain, fears are revived that this measure may improperly raise the price of provisions both in this country and in England, while we are cut off from a prospect of foreign supplies. It would be a national advantage, both as to morals and revenue, if a stop were put to illicit distillation.

It is stated in the English papers, that a Jew has been committed for trial, on the prosecution of the Solicitor of the mint for buying guineas at a premium of 1s. 6d. per piece.—If this information is correct, the issue must be interesting, especially to us in this part of the country who have been for so many years in the open practice of buying and selling guineas. The trade is yet new in England, and the traffic not openly avowed, but the necessity of the times will tend soon to reconcile them to these transactions, as whenever guineas are wanted, they will probably bear a premium in comparison with bank notes.

Exchange on London has latterly advanced, being about  $8\frac{3}{4}$  per cent for notes, and  $7\frac{1}{4}$  for guineas. Discount on notes is also a little advanced, being about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 per cent. Discount on Dublin bills is still under the rate of legal interest.

#### MEDICAL REPORT.

*List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from December 20, 1809, till January 20, 1810.*

Barometer....highest	30 0	Thermometer....highest	53 0
mean	29 0	mean	41 0
lowest	28 0	lowest	30 0
Typhus, - - - - -	8	Common contagious fever.	
Tubes mesenterica, -	1	Hectic fever, and wasting of the body, from diseased glands in the belly.	
Ophthalmia, - - - -	3	Inflammation of the eyes.	
Cynanche, - - - - -	1	Quinsy.	
Hepatitis, - - - - -	1	Inflammation of the liver.	
Rheumatismus, - - -	4	Acute rheumatism.	
Arthrodynia, - - - -	2	Chronic rheumatism.	
Rubeola, - - - - -	1	Measles.	
Scarlatina, - - - - -	6	Scarlet fever.	
Hæmoptysis, - - - -	1	Spitting of blood.	
Phthisis, - - - - -	3	Consumption.	
Catarrhus, - - - - -	4	Common cold.	
Dysenteria, - - - - -	1	Bloody flux.	
Dyspepsia, - - - - -	2	Indigestion, with flatulence of the stomach.	
Palpitation cordis, -	1	Palpitation of the heart.	
Asthma, - - - - -	4	Asthma.	
Hysteria, - - - - -	1	Hysterics.	
Scrophula, - - - - -	6	Evil.	
Icterus, - - - - -	1	Jaundice.	
Anosmia organica, -	1	An imperfect sense of smelling.	
Aphonia catarrhalis, -	1	Loss of voice from a cold.	
Psora, - - - - -	2	Itch.	
Herpes, - - - - -	4	Ringworm, or tetter.	
Syphilis, } - - -	8	Venereal disease.	
Gonorrhæa, }			
Morbi Infantiles, -	16,	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.	

The increase of contagious and scarlet fevers in the last month, if not sufficient to excite alarm, ought at least to rouse in us a spirit of vigilance and observation that we may be enabled to arrest the progress of either, as far as the present improved state of medical science enables us. The great frequency of colds, and the danger of their terminating badly, particularly where there is a pre-disposition to consumption, induces us to make the following observations, for the use of general readers: a cold at first is nothing but an increased secretion of the mucous membrane that lines the nose and passage to the lungs, and which is usually produced by sudden exposure of the body, from a very warm to a cold temperature, or by the long continuance in a cold and damp atmosphere, without being previously very warm; this new or increased action of these membranes may be suspended or destroyed by such remedies as are capable of exciting a powerful and con-